

## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending November 9, 2003

**Fair week for Field Work:** There were 4 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 60 percent adequate and 40 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included harvesting corn and soybeans; fall plowing; spreading manure, lime and fertilizer; planting wheat and barley; caring for livestock; storing machinery; preparing for winter and cutting firewood.

**Crops:** A majority of the Commonwealth saw rain showers last week, thus slowing many fall activities. Acres of corn harvested for grain advanced to 68 percent complete, 16 percent behind last year and 6 percent behind the five year average. Soybean acres harvested improved to 60 percent complete, 10 percent below the five year average. Fall tillage advanced very little to 65 percent complete, but is still 16 percent behind the five-year average. Ninety-two percent of winter wheat has been planted, only 4 percent less than the five year average, while 71 percent of the planted acres have emerged. The winter wheat crop was rated as 2 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 65 percent good and 19 percent excellent. Barley planted is virtually complete and nearly all planted acres have emerged. With fourth cutting of alfalfa advancing to 90 percent complete, the quality of hay made last week was rated as 22 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 3 percent was excellent.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions across Pennsylvania declined with the season. Nineteen percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 27 percent was rated poor, 12 percent was rated fair, 33 percent was rated good and 9 percent was rated excellent.

**Fruit & Vegetable:** Apple harvest advanced to 94 percent complete, only slightly behind the five-year average.

**U.S. As of November 2, 2003:** Temperatures were below normal in a band from the Pacific Northwest to the central Corn Belt, with sub-zero lows recorded in the extreme northern Rocky Mountains. Across the rest of

the Nation, temperatures were mild, averaging 3 to 6 degrees above normal. Though conditions were mostly dry across the western two-thirds of the Nation, scattered precipitation, including some snow, brought much-needed moisture to parts of the Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountains, and northern Great Plains. However cold temperatures in these areas slowed winter wheat emergence. Precipitation was light, but widespread, across the western and central Corn Belt. Moderate to heavy rain fell throughout the eastern Corn Belt and Atlantic Coast States, with the heaviest rainfall along the coast and into New England. Corn: Acreage harvested advanced to 85 percent, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of normal for this date. Harvest progressed rapidly across the Corn Belt, where Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin growers harvested 16 percent or more of their crop during the week. But Nebraska producers led the way, harvesting 23 percent of their crop to bring their total to 82 percent, even with their 5-year average. Despite good progress, harvest remained 1 week or more behind normal in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Soybeans: Ninety-one percent of the crop was harvested, 4 percentage points more than last year at this time but the same as the 5-year average. Iowa and South Dakota growers completed their harvest and joined North Dakota, where harvest was completed the previous week. Kansas producers progressed the most, harvesting 22 percent of their crop during the week, but remained over 1 week behind their normal pace. Harvest neared completion across most of the Corn Belt. Winter Wheat: Seeding advanced to 92 percent complete, 2 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Emergence, at 79 percent, was the same as a year ago but 4 points above the 5-year average for this date. Producers completed planting in Idaho and Washington, and were nearing completion across the Great Plains, followed closely by Corn Belt growers. Arkansas producers progressed the most, planting 18 percent of their crop during the week. Emergence progressed rapidly across the Corn Belt, but remained slow in the Great Plains, due to lack of moisture.

# Weather Data For Week Ending November 9, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY							April 1, 03 - November 9, 03					GDD
	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION		GDD BASE 50F		BASE 40F	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT	
<b>NORTHWEST</b>													
Erie	72	25	51	+5	0.28	4	26.87	-0.71	99	2668	+26	4630	
Franklin_AG	77	18	51	+8	0.06	1	36.75	+7.75	137	2342	-67	4292	
Meadville	76	21	50	+8	0.21	3	35.18	+5.67	118	2366	+162	4299	
Mercer	78	19	50	+8	0.19	3	40.15	+12.57	102	1971	-413	3856	
Springboro	77	24	49	+4	0.04	1	34.71	+8.16	113	2199	-385	4093	
Warren	78	19	49	+7	0.13	2	37.76	+8.28	115	2324	+1	4241	
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bradford_Region	74	11	46	+7	0.53	4	35.03	+5.89	126	1814	+159	3628	
Emporium	79	16	50	+9	0.64	3	40.64	+11.93	119	2381	+496	4337	
Kane	71	9	41	+2	0.41	2	32.02	+2.12	100	1240	-374	2891	
Laporte	72	15	46	+3	0.61	4	40.60	+13.57	109	2074	-303	3884	
Lock_Haven	78	16	50	+7	0.81	4	33.37	+6.88	104	2754	+223	4767	
Port_Allegany	76	14	47	+7	0.31	3	37.13	+9.26	110	1977	+141	3815	
Renovo	81	19	51	+8	0.71	4	33.33	+6.84	113	2614	+83	4617	
Ridgway	77	17	48	+7	0.67	2	32.03	+3.32	102	1960	+75	3834	
Stevenson_Dam	78	18	50	+10	0.56	5	35.09	+6.38	124	2389	+504	4352	
Towanda	77	18	49	+7	0.42	1	35.42	+12.88	122	2406	+8	4329	
Wellsboro	75	13	47	+7	0.43	1	33.52	+10.90	103	1976	+196	3788	
Williamsport_AP	75	19	51	+7	0.69	4	36.88	+10.32	106	2889	+98	4911	
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Hawley	75	15	47	+5	0.38	4	34.33	+8.78	94	2120	+79	4006	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	74	19	50	+5	0.54	3	37.20	+12.49	100	2754	+108	4733	
Susquehanna	75	18	49	+8	0.43	2	39.31	+11.70	99	2603	+680	4518	
<b>WEST CENTRAL</b>													
Butler	79	18	50	+6	0.36	3	32.57	+5.47	116	2480	-21	4465	
New_Castle	82	20	51	+8	0.15	1	38.55	+13.56	99	2714	+209	4732	
Slippery_Rock	80	18	51	+8	0.47	2	40.96	+14.21	112	2593	+351	4599	
<b>CENTRAL</b>													
Altoona/Blair_C	77	20	53	+8	0.59	2	30.17	+6.09	120	2638	-25	4619	
Du_Bois	75	18	50	+8	0.29	3	35.10	+7.81	133	2289	+12	4214	
Lewistown	82	21	54	+9	0.48	2	33.90	+8.09	97	2968	+41	5022	
Middletown	78	25	56	+9	0.56	3	37.50	+11.81	116	3309	-14	5399	
Prince_Gallitzi	79	19	50	+7	0.81	3	33.12	+2.43	126	2349	+220	4257	
Selinsgrove	79	20	53	+9	0.75	4	34.04	+7.18	104	2790	+71	4803	
State_College_P	78	21	52	+9	0.82	4	38.38	+14.02	109	2700	+89	4703	
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>													
Allentown-Bethl	79	20	53	+8	0.29	2	39.97	+12.13	98	3151	+120	5204	
Lehighnton	73	22	52	+6	0.64	4	46.30	+18.42	121	2622	-298	4597	
Matamoras	77	17	47	+4	0.68	4	36.58	+8.44	103	2325	-288	4243	
Tobyhanna	73	16	47	+8	0.79	4	49.48	+19.04	110	2765	+1020	4669	
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>													
Pittsburgh/Alle	79	23	53	+9	0.53	4	28.53	+3.21	117	3098	+409	5166	
Derry	80	21	54	+10	0.52	3	38.24	+12.00	104	2713	+181	4721	
Meyersdale	78	17	49	+5	0.70	2	34.01	+5.30	111	2007	-490	3895	
Mount_Pleasant	80	18	50	+8	0.95	3	35.80	+5.80	117	2619	+361	4628	
Pittsburgh_Intl	79	23	52	+7	0.42	2	27.72	+4.19	110	3031	+215	5076	
Rector	80	18	51	+9	0.87	3	35.40	+5.40	109	2654	+396	4668	
Waynesburg	82	21	52	+8	0.92	3	39.90	+14.29	115	2765	+172	4802	
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Biglerville	81	23	56	+9	0.62	3	39.69	+15.16	120	3069	-180	5136	
Everett	71	17	48	+4	0.70	2	33.80	+10.10	110	2554	-103	4496	
Hanover	82	24	57	+10	0.69	3	42.19	+17.66	99	3100	-149	5164	
Shippensburg	83	21	56	+9	0.81	2	34.21	+10.33	94	3224	-15	5302	
South_Mountain	78	19	53	+9	0.12	1	40.83	+16.75	102	2449	-204	4394	
York_AP	81	20	56	+9	0.84	3	34.03	+8.06	109	3160	-88	5230	
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Green_Lane	80	22	56	+10	0.77	3	45.89	+18.89	103	3307	+420	5391	
Hamburg	80	20	54	+10	0.48	3	40.18	+8.78	110	3005	+398	5044	
Hopewell	78	22	55	+7	0.82	3	41.91	+13.70	103	2963	-476	4988	
Lancaster_AP	79	22	56	+10	0.64	2	32.98	+5.76	99	3168	+106	5234	
Neshaminy_Falls	82	30	57	+11	1.27	3	34.74	+3.83	94	3420	+401	5505	
New_Holland	80	24	57	+11	1.55	2	41.69	+14.47	104	3164	+102	5233	
Philadelphia	79	29	59	+10	0.47	3	29.21	+3.07	90	3916	+349	6043	
Philadelphia_NE	79	27	57	+8	0.84	3	32.60	+6.46	100	3557	-10	5656	
Reading_AP	79	20	54	+9	0.34	2	34.60	+5.69	103	3243	+247	5299	
Valley_Forge_Na	81	20	54	+6	2.47	2	42.64	+14.43	102	3099	-340	5141	
Willow_Grove	78	30	57	+11	0.43	3	29.16	-1.75	92	3313	+294	5396	

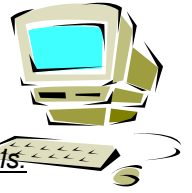
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*



"Our area had four good work days at the end of the week which helped the corn and soybean harvest. Moisture levels on corn are higher than usual, but farmers have to make use of the dry weather opportunity."  
- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"General farm work is being done. Manure hauling, fence repair, machinery repair and winter storage. Some outside projects having the finishing touches performed before winter."  
- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

"Summer is over, 16 degrees this morning."  
- Dick Decker, Centre County

"We had a lot of rain again this week. For the first time I guess we will not plant any winter crops this year, just too wet and getting too late."  
- Marina K., Huntington County

"Above average corn yields being reported. Soybean harvest is continuing. There will still be an attempt at planting some wheat."  
- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

"Another week of rain and wet soil conditions limited the amount of field work done."

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

"It has been a long season for custom corn choppers. Early last week they finished. Everyone worked hard and long. I heard of several local farmers who were very grateful for the helpers who travelled far to come and help harvest the down corn."  
- Axel Linde, Lancaster County

"The warm, long summer turned to nearly record breaking cold by the weekend with more rain and thunderstorms in between. Corn and soybean harvest is at a crawl because of the saturated soil conditions more than half is yet to go. Corn silage has yet to be completed by some area dairies and the struggle continues."

- Andrew Frankenfield,  
Montgomery County

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending November 9, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn, harvested	68	84	74
Barley, planted	100	98	99
Barley, emerged	100	94	93
Winter wheat, planted	92	97	96
Winter wheat, emerged	71	81	81
Soybeans, harvested	60	49	70
Alfalfa, 4 <sup>th</sup> cutting	90	86	93
Apples, harvested	94	96	96

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending November 9, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Winter Wheat	2	3	11	65	19
Quality of hay made	22	15	39	21	3
Pasture conditions	19	27	12	33	9

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